(iv) Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all level, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.;

(v) Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

(vi) Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women;

(vii) mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process;

(viii) Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and

(ix) Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

VRS in Bharat Gold Mines Limited

1470. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made a provision of Rs. 83.62 crore in budget estimate for 2001-2002 as grants-in-aid to Bharat Gold Mines Limited;

(b) if so, whether this would help the employees for terminal benefits who opt for voluntary retirement;

(c) whether the Ministry of Mines had pleaded that following closure of the century-old gold mines, it is necessary to provide funds for the purpose;

(d) if so, how many employees have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(e) to what extent Government have agreed for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD-PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government has been announcing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) from

time to time. The last VSS was opened on 10.12.2000 for one month. The VSS stood extended upto 28.2.2001 in terms of order of High Court of Karnataka and the budget provision was made in anticipation of opting of VSS from all the employees. However, only 313 employees opted for VSS under this scheme and they were released by 31st March, 2001, BGML stands closed with effect from 1.3.2001 under Section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in terms of Ministry of Labour, Government of India order dated 29.1.2001. However, the question of winding up/closure of BGML is *sub-judice* before Division bench of Karnataka because employees and other interested groups have filed a number of writ petitions.

Grants to Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.

1471. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give grants to Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to make the mine viable by applying VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD-PATIL: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1992 when its net worth became negative due to continuous losses. BIFR having considered the case for eight years and three reports of Operating Agency, passed the final order on 12.6.2000 concluding that it is just, equitable and in public interest to wind up BGML under Section 20(1) of SICA, 1985. BIFR forwarded its opinion to High Court of Karnataka on 30.6.2000. BGML stands closed with effect from 1.3.2001 under Section 25(O) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 in terms of Ministry of Labour, Government of India order dated 29.1.2001. The question of winding up/closure of BGML is *sub-judice* before Division Bench of Karnataka because employees and other interested groups have filed a number of writ petitions.